<u>REMARKS</u>

Applicant thanks Examiner Patel for the analysis set forth in the Office Action dated

February 13, 2006. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in view

of the proposed amendments and remarks presented herein.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 presently stands rejected as being anticipated by Walker.

In response to the previous Office Action, applicant argued a difference in

structure and operation between Walker and the claimed invention. Applicant argued that the

Walker reference needed to extrude radially against an under surface of a truncated triangular

backup ring 42 pressing backup ring 42 into a cut out pocket 28 provided expressly to retain

back up ring 42 (see column 3, line 10 of Walker). In contrast, applicant argued that the claimed

invention in the present application extruded axially, and did not require a similar backup

configuration or a cut out pocket.

The Examiner rejected applicant's argument based on an interpretation that when

the seal of Walker extrudes it exerts both an axial force component and a radial force component

against the back up ring.

Applicant respectfully submits that the axial versus radial argument remains a

valid point of differentiation. While the Examiner's interpretation is that there would be a force

with both an axial component and a radial component working against the back up ring of

Walker, applicant respectfully submits that a radial component to the force acting upon the back

up ring is not present in the claimed invention. Applicant has emphasized this difference by

indicating in the language of the claim that the peripheral seal is extruded applying a force solely

in an axial direction against the backing ring.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and arguments, the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

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